

CHAMPIONS CHATTER



THIRD QUARTER, 2007

MADISON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP'S FAITH TASK FORCE IS COALITION OF THE YEAR

By Mike McMahan

Madison County Community Partnership (MCCP), locally known as Community Partnership, was awarded the Coalition of the Year Award (2007) by the state office of Drug Control Policy on November 1st at the State's Annual Substance Abuse Leadership Conference. MCCP was awarded this honor as a result of the specific work being done by their Faith Task Force. The mission of the Faith Task Force is to 'serve all of God's people by bringing together diverse people and resources in the community to aid in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.'

Since the establishment of the Community Partnership in 1989, the Faith Task Force has been the strongest and most active branch of the Partnership. Monthly meeting attendance is consistent between 15 and 20 people, meaning that the Faith Task Force accounts for half of the Partnership's active membership and represents over eight denominations of faith to include members from the Eastern Kentucky University faith community.

Over the years, the Faith Task Force has been involved in countless awareness and education activities. In 2005, two community forums were held that targeted the faith community. The need for a survey was identified where all churches could have input.

Data produced from county-wide congregational surveys was used for the development of a faith-based curriculum *Life Choices*. *Life Choices* is a faith-based drug



prevention curriculum that can be adapted to fit into any church setting. This curriculum is now known by 17 churches, over 700 youth and 50 adults. It has even been used in several non-spiritual youth programs. The design of the program is intended to connect the ideas and knowledge of drug education with an experiential understanding of that knowledge. Throughout *Life Choices*, participants are exposed to faith-based lessons about drug and alcohol use along with the real-life experiences with those who encounter the consequences of drug abuse on a regular basis [continued next page](#)

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAMPIONS FOR A DRUG-FREE KENTUCKY COALITIONS

Madison County Partnership FAITH TASK FORCE IS COALITION OF THE YEAR, CONTINUED

(i.e. paramedics, coroner, emergency rooms, treatment centers, etc.). The program has been recognized by several agencies at the national and state levels including OJJDP, KY Lifesavers, New Liberty Sunday School Convention, KY Youth March for Christ and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In addition to the work of the Faith Task Force, the Partnership on the whole has been successful in creating community-wide change. In January 2007, adding to the Keg Registration ordinance in 2004, a Responsible Beverage Service ordinance was passed in the City of Richmond. As a result, over 600 sellers and servers were trained in responsible alcoholic beverage service. The Partnership has also been central in providing local industries with data and consultation on Drug Free Workplace Policies resulting in improved industry policies and standards. In recognition of this work, the Community Partnership was named 'Business of the Month' in November by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Understanding their community and being diligent in all they do, Madison County Community Partnership has played a fundamental role in shifting the community-norms of their county. All of the long-standing coalition members (15+ years) agree that the best ingredients for creating change in their community is "....hard work, lots of fun, an equal amount of patience and 'one day at a time'."

Champions Coalitions and KY-ASAP Local Board Members Attend Annual Conference

The 2007 Annual Champions/KY-ASAP Conference, "I Believe," was held at the Hurstbourne Holiday Inn in Louisville November 1-2. The conference was attended by approximately 250 persons from throughout the Commonwealth. Highlights of the conference included the opening session presentation given by Charlotte Wethington, Transitions, Inc. Her message was heartfelt and very motivating. Rev. Shane Britt mixed good solid information with humor and gave us some tips on how to motivate local pastors to become active with substance abuse prevention and treatment efforts. Joe Elswick, an extraordinary young woman from Lexington told it like it is and challenged us to "Imagine Into Life" at the annual awards event. Dr. Steve Sroka was such a success the crowd asked him to come back after lunch on Friday and spend some more time with them. Thanks to all those who presented at the conference including the KSP Honor Guard, KY-ASAP members who volunteered to serve on the "First Five Years" panel and the Kentucky State Police for bringing the KSP Substance Abuse Information Trailer. Thanks also to Sgt. Tony Wilson and best friend, Ben for the drug-dog demonstration. Thanks to Sgt. Travis Tennill who brought us up to date on DARE. His commitment to the program and the children is true. And thanks to all of you for attending our conference. We hope you took home with you increased knowledge, new friendships and a renewed affirmation of your efforts in Kentucky. We believe!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAMPIONS FOR A DRUG-FREE KENTUCKY COALITIONS

Trooper Steve Pavey Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Steve Pavey, winner of the ODCP Lifetime Achievement Award has a “caring spirit.” He is a “one of a kind” individual in many ways. Those are just a couple of the descriptions that people who know him attribute to KSP Trooper Steve Pavey. Steve exemplifies the efforts of Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky and KY-ASAP to bring prevention, treatment and law enforcement together for a common goal. He has given tirelessly of himself to community prevention efforts through his involvement with the Hardin County School System, his work with the local ministerial society, his countless speaking engagements throughout the region and state, and his participation in the Communicare Early Intervention Program. Congratulations to Trooper Steve Pavey.



Pictured: Teresa Barton, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Public Safety, Trooper Steve Pavey and Bill Patrick, Director, Office of Drug Control Policy.

Lyon County Youth Win First Creativity in Prevention Award

Members of the Champions Club Youth Group in Lyon County pose with their mentor, Dave Baxter, Deputy Secretary Barton and ODCP Director Bill Patrick. The youth are the first recipients of the “Creativity in Prevention Award” given at the 2007 Annual Champions/KY-ASAP Joint Conference. They submitted an original :30 second video entitled “Inhalants, What They Don’t Know Can Hurt Them.” Dave Baxter said, “It was a great thing having a mother and son working together,



understanding the dangers of inhalant abuse. We will be able to play this on the school system’s video channels so more students can see it. Also, we have plans to continue this same idea with alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs with students writing scripts and filming.”

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Power of One- Kindness Matters

By

Dr. Stephen Sroka, President, Health Education Consultants
Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

On November 2, 2007, I had the pleasure of speaking at your Champions/KY-ASAP Annual Conference in Louisville. The response from the participants was heartwarming when many lined up for a hug and shared kind words with me after I spoke.

I spoke about how one person can make a difference, and how kindness matters in homes, schools, and communities to keep people safe and healthy and drug free.

Many people when they think about school and community safety tend to think in terms of metal detectors, cameras and armed officers. With No Child Left Behind and its stress on academic achievement at all costs with little regard for the mental, social, physical, emotional or spiritual aspects of the whole child, many teachers teach tests and not students. Today new ways to prevent home, school, and community violence and drug use and help children learn include social and mental health communication skills that incorporate kindness.

I believe that education is the most powerful weapon we have against the problems for our youth today, especially sex, drugs and violence. I believe the efforts of one person can make this a better world. This is why I teach. The Power of One is a belief that with education, helping one another, and believing in yourself, you have the Power of One to change schools, communities and lives.

Even small gestures pay off. A former student of mine once thanked me for simply saying hi to him every day-a courtesy no one else extended. After I keynoted the Kentucky Great Kids Summit this last summer, one of the participants sent me a large manila envelope with the words largely written on the outside, "You changed my life at the Great Kids Summit." Her letters confirmed the importance of treating people with honesty, respect, dignity, love and kindness.

I believe that safe and healthy students make better students who learn more.

I believe that everyone needs the 3 F's of Life. A *family* who loves them, even if it is not a biological family. *Friends*, who will pull them up, not down. And *faith*, a moral compass, a sense of right and wrong.

Because kindness does matter, you can put a human face on school and community safety and learning and make your homes, schools and communities safer and a better place to live and learn.

You have the Power of One to change the future with kindness. Change is inevitable, growth is optional. Let's start today!

For more information visit my website at www.Dr.StephenSroka.com



Hancock County Social Host Ordinance Wins Approval

from the *Messenger-Inquirer*

Hancock County Fiscal Court unanimously approved a countywide social host ordinance. Members of the Hancock County Partners for a Healthy Community and Healthy Youth presented the ordinance at the fiscal court's September 24th meeting. The court passed it's first reading at its October 8th meeting.

"We're just excited about it and glad we've had so much support from the community and the magistrates," Holly Simpson, Executive Director of the Hancock County Partners' Prevention Coalition and Drug Free Community Grant, said after the ordinance was passed.

Hancock County Judge/Executive Jack McCaslin said he hoped once the ordinance was publicized, residents would read it and know they were being held accountable. "I think it's a good deterrent," he said. "A violation is a Class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to a \$500 fine and up to one year in jail," said Hancock County Attorney Paul Madden Jr.



Left to right: Holly Simpson, Ex. Director, Hancock County Partners, Jill Barger, Coalition Coordinator, Jack McCaslin, Hancock County Judge/Executive and Stephanie Lamar, Assistant Judge/Executive and coalition member. Back row: Hancock County Magistrates Wayne Hodskins, Frank Estes, Mike Powers and Larry Sosh.

The ordinance focuses on the role of the social host, adults who actually purchase alcohol for anyone under 21 years old or know that underage drinking is occurring under their watch. Students from Hancock County middle and high schools presented most of the information to magistrates at the Sept. 24th meeting. Meade and Breckinridge are two of Kentucky's counties that have already passed social host ordinances. Breckinridge County's ordinance took effect before Judge-Executive Ray Powers took office in January. Powers said he believes the ordinance was presented to Fiscal Court in 2005. He believes the response to the ordinance has been positive. "There hasn't been any backlash from it that I know of," Powers said.

Terry Stinson, prevention specialist at the River Valley Behavioral Health Regional Prevention Center, said a group of Daviess County students and adults has been working on a social host ordinance to present to Daviess Fiscal Court. Citizens Help All People Succeed, or CHAPS, which includes area high school students, has put together a presentation on a survey it did regarding teenage alcohol consumption and adults' perceptions on teenage drinking.

"They have visited a few local organizations to show their presentation and ask for support," Stinson said. "It will be several months at least before CHAPS presents the ordinance to Daviess Fiscal Court, he said. CHAPS has also looked to the Hancock County ordinance for guidance. We've watched theirs real close," "They've done an excellent job, how they approached it. We're trying to follow their blueprint."

Scott Countians Against Drugs Demonstrate Safety

By Jessica Heun Moore, MS
Bluegrass Regional Prevention Center

Local community organizations, firefighters, police, and many others gathered in Scott County on Saturday, September 8th to demonstrate safety to youth in the area. The health department, police and fire departments, and various other organizations set up booths regarding safety topics. The children really seemed to enjoy the day and received not only prizes and giveaways, but also valuable information on how to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy.



Johnny Griffin, SCAD President, demonstrates trying to walk a straight line while wearing drunk goggles.

While attending this event and looking around at the various booths, one in particular seemed to stand out among the others: Scott Countians Against Drugs, or SCAD, once again displayed an interactive booth in which the youth could participate. SCAD President, Johnny Griffin, demonstrated and allowed the youth to try the “drunk goggles” to show them how difficult it is to walk a straight line while intoxicated. SCAD’s Coordinator, Janie Wechman, assisted the youth in spinning a wheel whereby she would ask them drug and alcohol-related questions. After both activities, the youth received prizes, such as a Frisbee or bouncy ball with an anti-drug or anti-alcohol message, for their participation. In addition, SCAD passed out brochures, pamphlets, and coloring books about drugs and alcohol.

SCAD participates in this event and many others every year. In addition to providing funding for science-based programs such as Positive Action and Project Alert within many local schools, the group also hosts a prom breakfast to promote an alcohol and drug-free prom experience, participates in Red Ribbon Week, uses KIP data to implement new community resources and services, and organizes and participates in countless other events and initiatives.

Since it began in the early 1980’s, SCAD has provided invaluable services to the Scott county community. They have stood the test of time and continue to evolve as the community grows. It would be difficult to verbalize the influence SCAD has on this community because they have been involved in so many areas and implemented so many services and resources; their impact is immeasurable.

Keep It Real Kicks Off Campaign

Lexington kicked off its fourth year “Keep It Real-Don’t Drink” community education campaign in October. The campaign targets underage drinking and includes a regional video contest for youths. Contestants produce a 30-second video telling why kids under 21 shouldn’t drink. All entries are to be posted on the organization’s website: <http://www.keep-it-real.us>. Contest details are on the website. Joe Elswick, a UK freshman and campaign spokesperson says, “This initiative is about so much more than drinking and driving-it’s about quality of life and healthy communities.” Winners will be chosen in January. They will receive cash prizes and the winning entry will air on MTV, Comedy Central and ESPN during the Super Bowl and throughout February. For more information, contact Lynsey Sugarman at 859-361-1402.

Using Medications Safely: Prevention for Generation Rx

By: Donna Hardin, Director
Kentucky River Community Care Regional Prevention Center



Abuse and addiction to prescription medications are growing problems in the United States, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The 2004 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATs) surveyed more than 7,300 teenagers. Their findings reflected approximately one in five teenagers (18%), or 4.3 million teenagers nationally, report abusing Vicodin; one in 10 teenagers (10%), or 2.3 million teenagers nationally, report using OxyContin; one in eleven teenagers (9%), or 2.2 million young people, has abused over the counter cough medications intentionally to get high. According to the 2006 statewide Kentucky Incentive Program (KIP) data which consisted of 137 Kentucky School districts and over 117,000 students, 20% of 10th graders reported using narcotics in their lifetime without a physicians order on 1 or more occasions; 14% of 10th graders reported using over the counter medications to get high in their lifetime on 1 or more occasions.

A review of science based curricula as well as "Promising Programs" revealed that none addresses prevention of prescription medication. Consequently, prevention professionals from around Kentucky joined together to develop two innovative prevention programs focusing on prescription and over-the-counter medications which could augment existing prevention curricula. The first, Generation Rx, is an innovative video game for teens and the second is a traditional prevention curriculum with materials for the teacher.

In order to get the attention of the teenage video game generation we chose to incorporate an innovative prevention education solution. Through the interactive software, Generation Rx, the aim is to improve critical thinking, judgment and decision making regarding prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The interactive game process engages youth and gives them the chance to see the impact of their choices upon the three characters they play in the interactive video without experiencing any of the disastrous consequences themselves. Generation Rx is designed for use in schools, youth groups, and after-school programs. Learning points include issues of friendship, peer pressure, and role models; sharing prescription drugs, the use/abuse of over-the-counter drugs; gateway drugs; intervention; personal responsibility and individual choices; physical effects of drug abuse, legal and social consequences; and treatment options. WILL Interactive, Inc. of Potomac, Maryland, filmed the interactive video program in Eastern Kentucky utilizing a script which was culturally sensitive to Appalachia. Generation Rx has received the Editor's Choice Award from Children's Technology Review.

The traditional curriculum is divided into thirteen sections. These sections include statistics and information about the seriousness of prescription medication abuse, how to use the curricula, classroom lessons, Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) standards, and guidance on school drug policy. The materials are designed for a series of learning sessions to be covered in less than one week of 45 minute classes. Included are some screening instruments for use in detecting prescription drug abuse with students. Teachers may use these resource materials as needed or make copies for students as handouts. To find out more information about Using Medication Safely: Prevention for Generation Rx contact Donna Hardin at (606) 436-4124 or Lyn McCall at WILL Interactive (877) 255-9455.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAMPIONS FOR A DRUG-FREE KENTUCKY COALITIONS

"I Believe" Champions/KY-ASAP Annual Conference 2007



Joe Elswick, Awards Event Speaker
"Imagine into Life"



Above, Terry Stinson accepts the RPC Award given for hosting the Kentucky YES youth Group of the Year, SCRUBS.



Left, the Bluegrass RPC Staff accept the RPC Award given for hosting the Champions Coalition of the Year, Madison County Partnership's Faith Task Force.

Below left, The Kentucky YES Youth Group of the Year Award is presented to SCRUBS (Students Creating Respect Using Better Solutions), Owensboro.

Below, Pendleton County Youth Gifted and Talented Students won the Creativity in Prevention Runner-up award.



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Champions Chatter is a publication of Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky and the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy. The purpose of *Champions Chatter* is to disseminate and share information regarding the work of our many volunteers and Regional Prevention Center staff in Kentucky communities.

The mission of Champions is "to promote the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and promote the reduction of violence in Kentucky schools and communities."

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It is not enough to understand, or to see clearly. The future will be shaped in the arena of human activity, by those willing to commit their minds and their bodies to the task.

Robert Kennedy

